

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An image forming~~ A printing apparatus comprising:

~~image forming means for executing an image forming~~ a printing unit constructed to execute a printing process;

~~a management means for managing~~ unit constructed to manage (a) license information that gives a user an authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the ~~image forming~~ printing apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of ~~[[a]]~~ the program executable on the ~~image forming~~ printing apparatus or a function of the ~~image forming~~ printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management ~~means~~ unit manages the license information by using a counter;

~~an acquisition means for acquiring~~ unit constructed to acquire, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

~~a determination means for determining~~ unit constructed to determine whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired

license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management ~~means~~ unit so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information;

~~a recognition means for recognizing~~ unit constructed to recognize whether the acquired device identification information corresponds to device identification information of the ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus; and

an installation ~~means for~~ unit constructed to, if the determination ~~means~~ unit determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management ~~means~~ unit, and if the recognition ~~means~~ unit recognizes that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus, ~~installing~~ install the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, wherein the installation ~~means~~ unit does not install the acquired license information if the determination ~~means~~ unit determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management ~~means~~ unit or if the recognition ~~means~~ unit recognizes that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the management ~~means~~ unit further manages expiration-date-of-installation information indicating a period during which the license information acquired by the acquisition ~~means~~ unit is valid; and

the ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus further comprises an authentication unit constructed to authenticate ~~means for authenticating~~ the expiration date of installation of the license information.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management ~~means~~ unit further manages an encryption key of an already-installed program code together with program identification information identifying the program.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the acquired license information is encrypted using an encryption key uniquely assigned to the image forming apparatus; and

the ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus further comprises a decryption unit constructed to decrypt ~~means for decrypting~~ the encrypted license information.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~image-forming printing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the management ~~means~~ unit manages the license information in the form of certification information; and

the license information in the form of certification information certifies the right of a particular amount of usage of the program installed on the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus or the function of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) A license information management method implemented by ~~an image-forming~~ a printing apparatus, comprising;

a processor of the printing apparatus performing the steps of:

~~an image-forming~~ a printing step of executing ~~an image-forming~~ a printing process;

a management step of managing, by a management unit, (a) license information that gives a user an authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of ~~[[a]]~~ the program executable on the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus or a function of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management ~~step~~ unit manages the license information by using a counter;

an acquisition step of acquiring, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

a determination step of determining whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in

the license identification information managed by the management unit so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information;

a recognition step of recognizing whether the acquired device identification information corresponds to device identification information of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus; and

an installation step of, if it is determined in the determination step that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit and if the recognition step recognizes that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus, installing the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, and if the determination step determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, or if the recognition step recognizes that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus, not installing the acquired license information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the management step further includes the step of managing expiration-date-of-installation information indicating a period during which the license information acquired in the acquisition step is valid; and

the method further comprises the step of authenticating the expiration date of installation of the license information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the management step further includes the step of managing an encryption key of an already-installed program code together with program identification information identifying the program.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the acquired license information is encrypted using an encryption key uniquely assigned to the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus; and the method further comprises a step of decrypting the encrypted license information.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the management step manages the license information in the form of certification information, and the license information certifies the right of a particular amount of usage of the program installed on the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus or the function of the ~~image-forming~~ printing apparatus peripheral device.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a control program stored thereon for being executed by a processor of ~~an image forming printing~~ apparatus to manage license information, the control program comprising the steps of:

an ~~image forming~~ a printing step of executing an ~~image~~ a printing process;

a management step of managing, by a management unit, (a) license information that gives a user an authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and has already been installed in the ~~image forming printing~~ apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of [[a]] the program executable on the ~~image forming printing~~ apparatus or a function of the ~~image forming printing~~ apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management ~~step~~ unit manages the license information by a using a counter;

an acquisition step of acquiring, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

a determination step of determining whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information;

a recognition step of recognizing whether the acquired device identification information corresponds to device identification information of the ~~image forming printing~~ apparatus; and

an installation step of, if it is determined in the determination step that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit and if the recognition step recognizes that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the ~~image forming~~ printing apparatus, installing the license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program, and if the determination step determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, or if the recognition step recognizes that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the ~~image forming~~ printing apparatus, not installing the acquired license information.

14. to 33. (Canceled)